

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 3/01/2018

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 in the School Committee Room. School Committee Chair Ms. Kate Brody called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas, Ms. Pine, Mr. Sarli, Mr. Messore, Dr. Dillon, and Mr. Fiore.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Mike Malkoff of 9 Laurel Lane, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the District:

Primrose Hill School students participated in an Olympic Obstacle Activity School Celebration on Friday, February 16. Mr. Gesmondi designed the activities to reinforce school-wide expectations.

Hampden Meadows School 5th grade student Colby Grijalva won an award for his essay titled "Why Our Veterans are American Heroes."

Arts Alive and students from Barrington Middle School will hold a production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr." at Barrington High School, March 2 - 4.

Barrington High School students' Ari Dulchinos and Kamryn Voutes' blogs "To Mitosis and Beyond" and "Student Reflections on Osmosis Lab" were published by the Commissioner of Education on the Rhode Island Department of Education website.

Barrington High School Girls Indoor Track and Field Team is the 2018 Division Meet Champion, 2018 Class Meet Champion, and 3rd place State Champion.

Barrington High School Boys' Hockey Team athlete, Jonathan Fay, received the Hobey Baker High School Character Award.

Barrington High School Boys and Girls Swim teams have been awarded the William Valerio Memorial Sportsmanship Award by the Rhode Island Swim Officials Association.

Barrington High School Boys Swim Team placed 2nd overall at the State Championship Swim Meet; Barrington swimmers set new state records in the 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 400 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay events.

Barrington High School Swim Team athlete Harry Homans set new state records in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly events at the State Championship Swim Meet.

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Barrington High School Girls Swim Team won its fourth straight championship title at the State Championship Swim Meet.

Barrington High School Swim Team athlete Sydney Diehl set new state records in the 100 Freestyle and 50 Freestyle events at the State Championship Swim Meet.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Fiore provided an update on Barrington Middle School Project, including reports of meetings with the Owner's Project Manager and General Contractor. There have been substantial changes to site and the project is currently on time and on budget. He reported that the Rhode Island Department of Education has expressed interest in site visits at various stages of construction.

Ms. Brody asked about the Barrington Middle School project blog and the frequency of updates. Mr. Messore reported that weekly meetings will be held with Dr. Anderson, the Owner's Project Manager and the General Contractor to review work scheduled for the week, and that Dr. Anderson will post this information to the blog.

Ms. Brody introduced the proposed comprehensive FY19 Operating Budget agenda item and stated that this is the first opportunity the School Committee has had to review the full proposed budget. A special meeting of the School Committee will be held on March 5 at 8:15 a.m. for discussion and approval of the FY19 Operating Budget.

Mr. Fiore provided an overview of the proposed FY19 Operating Budget, including the following highlights: external budget factors, projected revenue sources, major budget categories, budget targets and implications. He reported that the current proposed budget reflects significant changes from the version that was previously shared, including a decrease in the amount by which health insurance premiums are expected to increase from 7% to 6%, a 10% increase in life insurance premiums, and an additional FTE for English Language Learner (ELL) instruction due to an enrollment increase in FY18. These changes mean an increase in the FY19 budget of \$1,670,355, or 3.4%. Mr. Fiore stated that \$44,996,431 or 88.5% of the total proposed budget comes from local property tax revenue.

Mr. Fiore presented the School Committee with a comparison of FY18 and FY19 budget categories by line item. He stated that the Administration will continue to evaluate State mandates and requirements, and will conduct additional research on opportunities for cost savings in the budget.

Mr. Messore reported on a discussion with the Town Manager regarding a full-time School Resource Officer (SRO.)

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The Town has indicated that it will include, in its municipal FY19 operating budget, the \$72,000 additional cost of making this a full-time position for the Barrington Public Schools. Mr. Messore stated that the District will continue to fund \$25,000 of the cost of the School Resource Officer.

The School Committee and Administration discussed a number of items, including the FY18 addition of 3 FTE positions to meet the needs of special education students that had not been included in the budget, an increase in the use of substitutes, a decrease in tutoring costs, an anticipated increase in legal services due to upcoming negotiations, a potential increase in pool rental costs, the timing of the transportation contract renewal, potential cost savings in transportation, a decrease in the cost of technology software, New England School Development Council (NESDEC) enrollment projections relative to the Middle School project, the number of social workers at Barrington High School, social-emotional supports at the elementary schools, certification of our Substance Abuse Counselor, English Language Learner (ELL) resources, kindergarten enrollment, plans for program evaluation, and the Capital Improvement Budget for Technology.

Ms. Brody requested clarification of the capital budget. Mr. Fiore reported that the capital budget consists of two items: technology requests in support of the 1:1 initiative; and an allocation towards a new mini bus. Discussion ensued: Mr. Fiore will provide the School Committee with a complete breakdown of what is included in the technology requests.

Ms. Pine asked about the number of SMART boards replaced in FY17-18 and for clarification regarding the number of SMART board replacements included in the proposed FY19 budget. Dr. Dillon reported that 4 SMART boards were replaced this year, and 3 SMART boards are included in the FY19 budget.

Public Comment

Ms. Pam Lauria of 56 Martin Avenue inquired about capital budget and the \$250,000 allocation for computer technology as it relates to K-3 laptop purchases. Mr. Fiore reported that the purchase of laptops for the K-3 schools represents 20% of the \$150,000 allocation for the 1:1 initiative, and that it includes Chromebooks, iPads, and cases. The remaining \$100,000 is allocated to the purchase of servers, SMART boards, software updates, and security cameras.

Dr. Scott Douglas of 25 Rumstick Road asked for reassurance from the Administration that the transportation review currently underway will be consistent with Rhode Island Department of Education ridership laws and that it will capture all efficiencies. Mr. Messore stated that the consultant hired by the District to evaluate its transportation system previously worked for the Rhode Island Department of Education. Dr. Douglas expressed his disappointment with the fact that the school start time initiative has not been included in the proposed budget.

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Mr. Mike Malkoff of 9 Laurel Lane expressed his concern regarding school safety. He asked about safety measures currently in place, and about plans the Administration may be considering for the future.

Ms. Gina Bae of 64 Governor Bradford Drive inquired about the responsibilities of the full-time SRO, and requested clarification about the Capital Reserve Account. She expressed concern with the budget process, as she worries that reallocation of resources to fill gaps and meet mandates could possibly reduce the integrity of programs and jeopardize the consistency of services to students, especially for students with special needs.

Ms. Maraidh Thompson of 3 Ridgeland Road commented on the budget and its impact on the learning environment. She requested that the Administration use caution when making budget decisions to cut non-mandated programs, and asked the School Committee and Administration to continue to support a well-rounded education for students.

Old Business

Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update on the Strategic Planning process. There will be a meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee on March 21 with Studer Education to review and approve the final draft of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Messore requested that the School Committee direct questions to Dr. Matarazzo. The target date for the School Committee to approve the Strategic Plan is at its regular meeting on April 12. Mr. Messore reported that there will be an Administration leadership development session with Studer Education on March 22.

Ms. Brody reported on upcoming work with Studer Education and the School Committee to provide an introduction to an annual district scorecard, and on opportunities for the Committee to participate in monthly virtual leadership development sessions starting in April. Mr. Messore stated that Dr. Matarazzo will provide "next steps" for the Steering Committee and Administrative leadership team.

Mr. Messore provided an update on the status of child care options at Hampden Meadows School. He reported that he has had conversations with both potential vendors, and that he is discussing the status of fire department approval with the Fire Department Chief. He stated that the Administration has completed all requirements of the District, and that final approval will come from the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Discussion ensued regarding facility improvements that may be necessary before outside vendors can offer child care. Dr. Douglas asked for confirmation that any child care options being developed are for all K-5 schools, and Mr. Messore provided that confirmation.

School Committee

There was no Old Business from the School Committee at this time.

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New Business

Student Representative to the School Committee Update

Mr. Sarli reported that Spirit Week at the High School is next week.

Superintendent and Staff

Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Mr. Lyle Goldstein, Advisor, Outing Club, Barrington High School. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the recommendation of the Superintendent relative to the appointment of Ms. Julia Fraser, Assistant Coach, Girls Lacrosse, Barrington High School. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Messore announced the retirement of Ms. Judianne Point, World Language Department, Barrington High School, after 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Fiore provided an update on health insurance as relates to the FY19 Budget. He reported that we are seeking bids from two providers, and that bids are due March 23. There may be a recommendation by the Administration at the March 29 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Messore proposed a community discussion on school security in response to the recent tragedy in Florida. He reported on steps the Administration is taking relative to school safety. He has met with clergy in the community regarding community awareness. In addition, he has had discussions with the Town Manager and Police Department, and hopes to include these departments in a collaborative community forum. Mr. Messore stated that the Administration is talking with principals and local law enforcement relative to the National School Walkout planned for March 14. Discussion ensued about the ongoing dialogues among Barrington High School administrators, student leadership, and faculty leadership relative to the plan for March 14.

School Committee

Mr. Fiore introduced a Letter of Intent for a contract with NuGen Capital Management in response to Solar PV Bid #850 for a virtual net metered power purchase agreement. He reported on the presentation by Competitive Energy Services, LLC to the School Committee and Town Council in December, and on discussions with the Town and with legal counsel. The Town is proceeding with the agreement. Mr. Fiore clarified that this arrangement is projected to

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result in a savings of \$46,000 a year. He stated that legal counsel has confirmed that this letter of intent is not binding.

Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the Superintendent's execution of a Letter of Intent with NuGen Capital Management for Solar Energy credits in accordance of Solar PV Bid #850. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.

Ms. Clancy introduced discussion of a proposed meeting with the Education Commissioner. This idea stemmed from a discussion with legislators at the Legislative Breakfast in February regarding possible relief from targeted State mandates. Discussion ensued on topics and format for the meeting. Mr. Messore will contact the Commissioner with an invitation from the School Committee.

Ms. Brody introduced for discussion her proposal of providing School Committee testimony on the Governor's proposed FY19 Budget, Articles 5, Section 1, Question 1, School Construction Bond, and Article 9, School Construction and Education at the March 22 House Finance Committee Meeting. There has been a change in specific language in the Articles that will negatively affect the District's eligibility for potential incentives. She reported that House revised language would limit potential additional State reimbursement for the Barrington Middle School project. In addition, the legislation as submitted does not provide additional benefits, including reimbursement for the Owner's Project Manager and Commissioning Agent, for which other such projects throughout the State, approved after July 1, 2019, would be eligible. Discussion ensued on a plan to provide testimony at the House Finance Committee Meeting, to reach out to the Lincoln School District to coordinate testimony, and to contact the Barrington legislative delegation to request their support. There was a consensus to move forward with contacting Treasurer Magaziner and the legislative delegation.

Public Comment

Ms. Maraidh Thompson thanked the Administration for considering options for students to participate in the National Student Walk-out on March 14th, and for its recent communications to reassure students of their safety. She inquired about safety training for volunteers. Mr. Messore reported that the Administration will be conducting an assessment of security in buildings, and that principals will be holding Town Hall meetings with students regarding safety in schools. He will meeting with the District Volunteer Coordinator regarding training of volunteers in school safety protocols. He stated that the Administration will do everything it can to ensure students are safe.

Ms. Gina Bae commented on school safety and the need for consistent communication throughout the District. She offered the support of the PTOs for a community discussion on

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safety. Mr. Messore reported that there will be a discussion at the PTO Presidents' Meeting on March 5th, and that Administration will be reviewing the Safety Plan that is submitted to the State each year. This plan will incorporate new measures and will be communicated to the public.

Decision Items

Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Ms. Brody, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative. Ms. Clancy and Mr. Alessandro abstained as they were not present for all meetings on the Consent Agenda.

Discussion Items

Mr. Messore announced that a special meeting of the School Committee will be held on Monday, March 5 with one agenda item, Discussion and Possible Action: FY19 Operating Budget. The next regular meeting of the School Committee will be held on March 15 and will include presentations on the Master Facilities Plan and a Mid-Year Progress Report on Student Achievement Data. There will be a Spotlight on Teaching and Learning, and a report from the Health and Wellness Committee.

Ms. Brody announced that the next Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 21 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Barrington High School.

Announcements

Mr. Messore announced that the Barrington Middle School students' production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr." will be performed on Friday, March 2nd through Sunday, March 4th, and that there will be a presentation entitled "7 Ways to Stop the Worry Cycle" by Lynn Lyons, LICSW on March 7th at 7:00 p.m., sponsored by the Barrington PTOs and the Bay Team.

Ms. Clancy moved and Mr. Alessandro seconded adjournment of the regular meeting at 10:14 p.m. The motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Brody, Ms. Clancy, Mr. Alessandro, Dr. Douglas and Ms. Pine voting in the affirmative.